



Kiwaniis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 29 July 15th, 2026 Editor, Joe Gastiger www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Lasagna, with meat balls, green beans, Caesar salad, rolls and butter, cookies

Today's Meeting: Led by Caroline Collins **Invocation:** Bob Hoffman

Officers for 2025-2026

President	Caroline Collins
President Elect	Sue Doubler
Vice President	
Treasurer	Bob Hoffman
Asst. Treasurer	Al Mueller
Secretary	Ken Doubler
Asst. Secretary	Jerry Wahlstrom
Imm Past President	Mike Mooney
Lt. Governor	Jean Erlenborn
District Governor	Mary Zeronas

Kishwaukee Kiwanis Meetings

2nd, 3rd, 4th, Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.
Faranda's Banquet Center
302 Grove St.
DeKalb, IL

K-Family Events/Meetings

Circle K Every other Wednesday at
4:30 p.m. in HSC 506
(usually 1st and 3rd
Wednesday)

AKtion Club – 2nd Wednesday, 3:45 at
Opportunity House
357 N. California St
Sycamore, IL

Defining Statement

Kiwanis is a global organization of
volunteers dedicated to improving
the world, one child and one
community at a time.

Flag Salute

As our flag signifies purity, valor, and
justice, may we as true Kiwanians
exemplify these virtues as we serve
the children of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caroline Collins reported that Ken Doubler is feeling better now after some respiratory problems that have troubled him recently, and kept him away from us the past couple of weeks. He's in rehab now at Aperion Care - DeKalb (formerly Pine Acres), and would be happy to have visitors stop by. You'll find him there in Room 240

Toney Xidis and Kathi Davis got up to thank all of our members who sought out sponsors, helped to set up, and gave out refreshments at the rest stops along our Biking with Beanzie routes last Sunday. As we expected, we did get some very positive feedback from riders who appreciated what a friendly and well-run event it was.

Mike Mooney commented that, this year, our signs were especially helpful — it wasn't easy to get lost out there on those quiet country roads.

This year, we had 141 registered riders, and while we don't have an exact figure yet, we may have earned about \$4,600 to give away.

On behalf of Jerry Smith, Joe Gastiger announced that there will be a meeting to help plan our fall Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, July 21, at 4:00 PM out at Oak Crest. Tim Lynch has graciously offered to host this event at the center, though we still have to set a date and time.

Anyone who'd like to help us organize this breakfast, or has ideas about the morning program is welcome to come to our planning session.

PROGRAM

Today, Jim Barker introduced Rev. Maurice McDavid, who's principal at Dr. Leroy A Mitchell Elementary School on Normal Road here in DeKalb.

Maurice supervises more than 80 staff members, serving more than 400 students, in the most-populated neighborhood in town. He spoke about how moving it was to have Dr. Mitchell address all of the young people — few children, after all, have a chance to see and hear the person their school's named after. Dr. Mitchell talked about his own schooling; thanks to a "father who would not let me fail", he was able to build a successful career that helped many first-time college students from the poorest parts of Chicago persevere, graduate, and succeed in their professions.

Maurice has tried to create a school culture that will not let kids fail. He spent a good part of first year as principal implementing and adjusting building-wide systems and routines to meet the needs of every child. Mitchell Elementary has hosted many

events, such as family movie nights, a “sneaker ball,” and community celebrations that bring parents into the building, foster a greater sense of belonging, and help classroom teachers and parents communicate more easily.

Classroom teachers are trained in how to utilize MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support), so that each child gets the academic help s/he needs.

Mitchell Elementary employs the district’s first full-time STEAM teacher (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) Special classes throughout the week encourage students to explore music and art, and work on projects that introduce them to technical fields that they might want to pursue as adults.

Finally, Maurice noted that his school has developed a number of partnerships — with local churches, service organizations, fraternities, sororities, and NIU athletics that can provide mentoring and extra resources for children living in poverty.

All told, while, yes, some features of the school day might change as time goes on, Mitchell Elementary had a remarkably successful first year.

Need a ride to Kiwanis?

Several Kiwanis members have volunteered to give a ride to our meetings if needed.
(Please give them a couple of day’s notice if possible.)

Bob Gilmore 815-764-9010 Kathie Davis 815-751-9085 Bob Hadley 815-739-8869
Bob Hoffman 815-742-3765 Jerry Smith 815-751-6265

Thought for the day

Courtesy of Bob Hoffman - Presented by Shadow gentry
“Make each day a special day just by being yourself. There’s no one else exactly like you.”
- Google AI says this is from Mr. Rogers

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: (*Why not invite a guest?* – that could mean a prospective member!)

- July 22: Adam Van Boekel (Crowbotics)
- July 29: Committee meetings
- August 5: Board Meeting
- August 12: Steve Braser, Sycamore Mayor
- August 19: TBD
- August 26: Harlan Hawkins, Union Soldier Cemetery

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 24
	Guests: Jeanne Ehrenborn, Rita Elliott, (DeKalb SchoolDCommunications Director), Jean Gastiger, Li Arellano, Jr. (State Senator, 37th District)
	Outside Speakers: Rev. Maurice McDavid
	Total 29